



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MVLC Announces Boycott of Macmillan Publishing

Effective immediately, the Merrimack Valley Library Consortium (MVLC) and its 36 member libraries will stop purchasing newly released eBooks published by Macmillan Publishers and its imprints.

Macmillan enacted an embargo in November 2019, prohibiting public libraries from purchasing more than one eBook copy of all new titles for 8 weeks after their release. This means that public libraries are not allowed to buy eBooks from Macmillan even though copies are available for individuals to purchase through regular retail sites. For MVLC, this means only one eBook copy would be available to library users across all its 36 communities. MVLC will not be able to meet user demand with such a restrictive policy.

MVLC joins the American Library Association, the Massachusetts Library Association, and many other libraries across the country in objecting to these changes. In a recent report on WGBH radio, Massachusetts Library Association President, Esme Green, said, "The library has been helping people for hundreds of years. That's what we do. And so, if you take that away, you're actually hurting your communities. It's not good for our social fabric."

Public libraries have an ethical obligation to ensure that library patrons have equitable access to a broad range of material. "When a publisher puts up barriers to access, we must seek other publishers whose materials are not similarly restricted," says Becky Herrmann, MVLC President. "In addition, as good fiscal stewards for our libraries, we feel it is fiscally irresponsible to continue to expend tax dollars on eBooks with a publisher that has intentionally put libraries at a disadvantage."

This boycott does not apply to Macmillan products in other formats, such as print books, audio CDs, and digital audiobooks, which are not impacted by Macmillan's embargo. Previously published Macmillan eContent already in the digital collection will not be affected.

For more information about the MVLC digital collection, visit <http://mvlc.org/> or contact your local public library. Comments to Macmillan Publishers can be directed to elending.feedback@macmillan.com.

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